

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 14-24 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 14-24 over Igari in view of AAPA

Claims 1, 8, 16, 17, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese document No. JP404026226A ("Igari"); and claims 4-6, 9, 10, 14, 15, 18-20, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Igari in view of applicant's admitted prior art ("AAPA"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 14-24 recite a method and apparatus utilizing a first current path connecting a one row conductor and a column conductor, the first current path implemented to allow current to **flow bi-directionally therethrough** and a second current path connecting the row conductor and the column conductor, the second current path restricted to allow current to **flow only in one direction therethrough**.

The Examiner correctly acknowledges Igari discloses three diodes in each column (Office Action, page 5). Diodes implemented in each column are **NOT** a second current path connecting the row conductor and the column conductor, the second current path restricted to allow current to **flow only in one direction therethrough**, as recited by claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 14-24.

Moreover, the Examiner alleges that Igari's SW10, SW11, SW12, etc. are restricted to allow current to flow only in one direction therethrough (Office Action, page 3). However, as shown in Fig. 2, switches SW10, SW11, SW12, etc. are the **SAME** type of switches as switches SW1, SW2, SW3, etc. that the Examiner acknowledges allow current to flow bi-directionally. Although SW10, SW11, SW12 used in conjunction with diodes D21, D22, D24, etc. may only allow current flow in one direction, the diodes are in each column, as discussed above is acknowledged by the Examiner. Igari fails to disclose or suggest a first current path connecting a one row conductor and a column conductor, the first current path implemented to allow current to **flow bi-directionally therethrough** and a second current path connecting the row

conductor and the column conductor, the second current path restricted to allow current to **flow only in one direction** therethrough, as recited by claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 14-24.

Igari utilizes a switch/diode combination in two conductive paths connecting a row conductor and a column conductor in a first embodiment (Fig. 1). A second embodiment utilizes only switches in two conductive paths connecting a row conductor and a column conductor, with diodes in column conductors (Igari, Fig. 2).

Igari discloses one embodiment using two switches allowing current to flow bi-directionally between a row conductor and a column conductor. Two switches allowing current to flow bi-directionally between a row conductor and a column conductor is **NOT** a second current path connecting the row conductor and the column conductor, the second current path restricted to allow current to **flow only in one direction** therethrough, as recited by claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 14-24.

Igari's second embodiment uses a switch/diode combination allowing current to flow only in one direction in either path in two conductive paths between a row conductor and a column conductor. A diode in a conductive path connecting a row conductor and a column conductor restricts current flow to only **one direction**. Switches restricting current flow to only **one direction** in conductive paths connecting a row conductor and a column conductor is **NOT** a first current path connecting a one row conductor and a column conductor, the first current path implemented to allow current to **flow bi-directionally therethrough** and a second current path connecting the row conductor and the column conductor, the second current path restricted to allow current to **flow only in one direction** therethrough, as recited by claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 14-24.

AAPA is relied on by the Examiner to disclose momentary switching elements and persistent switching elements (Office Action, page 4). However, AAPA fails to disclose or suggest a first current path connecting a one row conductor and a column conductor, the first current path implemented to allow current to **flow bi-directionally therethrough** and a second current path

connecting the row conductor and the column conductor, the second current path restricted to allow current to **flow only in one direction therethrough**, as recited by claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 14-24.

For at least all the above reasons, claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 14-20 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been mooted by the cancellation of prior claims, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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